



THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE  
**Library Assistants' Association.**

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Vol. 2.

OCTOBER, 1900.

No. 13.

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L.A.A. MEETINGS—LONDON, MANCHESTER.

"OPEN ACCESS," BY P. D. GORDON.

CRIPPLEGATE FREE LIBRARY (*Illustrated*).

NOTES AND NEWS.

NOTICES.

... SOME COTGREAVE LIBRARY AIDS. ...  
A FEW TESTIMONIALS.

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## The Indicator.

"LIBRARY CONSTRUCTION, ARCHITECTURE, FITTINGS, AND FURNITURE."  
By F. J. BURGONE. 1897.

"The Cotgreave Indicator is that in use in the majority of the British Free Libraries."

"THE FREE LIBRARY: ITS HISTORY AND PRESENT CONDITION."  
By J. J. OGLE. 1897.

"The Recording Indicator is almost certainly the invention of Mr. A. Cotgreave (Public Libraries, West Ham, London, E.), and is that most largely used."

### "THE SCOTSMAN."

"All the London Free Public Libraries which use indicators, except one, have adopted the Cotgreave System, which has been found to work well."†

N.B.—See also "Greater London," by E. Walford, M.A., F.S.A. (page 360); "Methods of Social Reform," by Prof. W. Stanley Jevons, M.A., F.R.S., LL.D.; "Public Libraries," by T. Greenwood, F.R.G.S.; &c., &c.

\* As a matter of fact it will be found in about nine-tenths of the Libraries using Indicators. Over 300 Institutions are now using it.

† Sixty-two Public Libraries in London and the Metropolitan area are using it.

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## The Simplex Shelf Support

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The Shelves can be raised or lowered by one person without moving or disarranging a single book, and in half the time required by any other system. No space is lost; no mechanism to get jammed, or otherwise out of order, or nip the fingers; no danger to Bindings by projecting metal or wooden fittings; no tilting of shelves. The Fittings are entirely out of sight when the Books are in position, unless more space is allowed between the shelves than is generally required. While No. 1 is perhaps best for very heavy books, No. 2 is quite safe for ordinary books, and is cheaper and more readily fitted.

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NEARLY READY.

## The Contents-Subject Index,

TO GENERAL AND PERIODICAL LITERATURE.

Price to Subscribers, 7s. 6d.

Price when published, 10s. 6d.

(800 copies have already been subscribed for. See List).

### "DAILY NEWS."

"A 'Contents-Subject Index to General and Periodical Literature' would, if properly done, be a great time-saving machine. Such a work is being undertaken by Mr. A. Cotgreave. The first part, which is now before us, is distinctly promising. It will be helpful to many students and readers."

### "DUBLIN REVIEW."

"The Editor of the 'DUBLIN REVIEW' (Canon Moyes), desires me to thank you for the specimen of the 'Contents-Subject Index,' and to say that he has formed a high opinion of it, in fact he has already found it useful."

T. W. HUNTER, Librarian, Archbishop's House, Westminster.

*Full particulars of the above and also of other Library Aids sent upon application to the*

## LIBRARY AIDS CO.,

166a, Romford Road, Stratford, London, E.





# The Library Assistant:

*The Official Organ of the Library Assistants' Association.*

No. 34.

OCTOBER, 1900.

Published Monthly.

## THE LIBRARY ASSISTANTS' ASSOCIATION.

FOUNDED 1895. SIXTH SESSION. YEAR 1900-1901.

*Members are requested to carefully read the announcements appearing on this page, as no further intimation of meetings and other arrangements may be expected.*

### OCTOBER MEETING.

The opening meeting of the session will be held at St. Bride Foundation Institute, Bride Lane, Fleet Street, on Wednesday, October 17th, at 8 p.m. Mr. W. B. Thorne will read a paper on "William Blades: the Man and his Library," and Mr. C. J. Drummond, F.S.S., has kindly consented to preside. Visitors are cordially invited, and it is hoped that the depository of the library of William Blades will be the scene of a large and enthusiastic gathering.

### THE VISIT TO WESTMINSTER ABBEY.

The summer programme was concluded on Wednesday, September 26th, when the Rev. the Precentor very kindly conducted a party of members round the ancient Abbey of Westminster. In contrast to the recent brilliant sunshine, the sky wore a leaden tint, but once inside the sacred fane, the charm of the varied interests awakened by the long train of associations there found at home, made itself felt with unerring, though gentle, force. Mr. Bainbridge first led to the Jerusalem Chamber, sometimes confounded with the Chapter House, which, possessing the only fireplace in the buildings, thereby became the death-chamber of Henry IV., who was laid before the fire for comfort when dying. Feeling himself near death, he inquired if the chamber had any special name, and was told "Jerusalem." "Then," said the King, "Laud be to the Father of Heaven! for now I know that I shall die in this chamber, according to the prophecy made of me beforesaid, that I should die in Hierusalem!" Here is preserved, behind glass, the old high altar piece, much defaced, and the small remains of ancient stained glass are set in the middle of the clear glass lights. Not the least interesting association to librarians is the probability that the

"Westminster Company," concerned in the Authorised Version of the Bible in 1611, met in this chamber, and, more recently, the fact that the Revisors frequently assembled here. Passing through the adjoining "Jericho Chamber," the Abbot's dining hall, an ancient, lofty room now used for the same purpose by the Westminster boys, was viewed, and the Abbot's passage from the Jericho room traversed. This opens into the south aisle near the great western doors, and a few steps reveal the glorious vista of the loftiest nave, chancel, and apse in England, the height of the nave being 103 feet. The Precentor pointed out, amongst a multitude of interesting details, the remarkable closeness with which the original design and style of architecture had been followed, although the building works went on for five hundred years. Soon the Statesmen's Corner and the Poets' Corner were reached, each lighted from either transept gable by a lovely circular stained-glass window, and then the enchanted ground of Henry VII.'s Chapel claimed its turn. The innumerable perpendicular lines of the masonry, crossed by horizontal lines, rise in dazzling richness to a ceiling far more richly decorated, the huge bosses thereon being the occasion of the repetition of a wealth of detailed work which defeats its own end in palling the sense of beauty. Here float the banners of the Order of the Bath; there are beautiful gates and palisadings of wrought iron and brass; and wonderfully made brass figures recumbent above the remains of their originals. In the chantry over the Islip Chapel may be seen waxen effigies of some of the ancient dead, noble and ignoble. Mounting the newel which forms the side of the great architectural initial of Henry, we peer into the open top of the shrine of Edward the Confessor, and behold the box containing his remains, above us hanging the helmet, shield, and saddle of Henry V. Many a thrilling romance may be conjured up amidst these surroundings, drawn from actual history, and no association is more striking than the burial of Elizabeth with Mary, whilst not far away lies Mary Queen of Scots.

A most agreeable visit was brought to a close with the warmest thanks of the party to the genial cicerone who had infused such a living interest in the noble, lifeless stone.

#### NORTH WESTERN BRANCH.

##### SEPTEMBER MEETING.

The usual monthly meeting was held in the Library of Chetham College (by the kind permission of the Feoffees)

on Wednesday, September 19th. There was a good attendance, and Mr. J. H. Swann occupied the chair.

In the absence of a well-known Librarian, who was expected to have read a paper on "Open Access," Mr. P. D. Gordon, at very short notice, contributed one on the same subject, which is appended.

After the discussion on Mr. Gordon's paper, the members proceeded to inspect a seventeenth century printing press, acquired by the College from Messrs. George Falkner and Sons, which was fully described by Mr. H. W. Kirk. The proceedings terminated with the usual votes of thanks to Mr. Gordon for his paper and Mr. Kirk for his kindness in obtaining permission from the Feoffees for the visit to the fine old library of Chetham College.

#### OCTOBER MEETINGS.

The next meeting will be held on October 17th in the Manchester Athenæum, Princess Street, at 8 p.m., when Mr. J. D. Dickens will read a paper on "The Organisation and Administration of a Public Library."

#### SPECIAL MEETING.

Members will be pleased to learn that the postponed visit to the John Rylands Library will take place on Tuesday, October 23rd, at 7 p.m., when Mr. Guppy will have some interesting remarks to offer, and a good attendance is requested.

Members should note that nominations for the Committee, 1901, should be sent to the Hon. Secretary on or before Saturday, October 20th, 1900.

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#### OPEN ACCESS.

By P. D. GORDON.

Following closely upon Mr. Swann, whose able remarks upon the subject you will have read in the "Library Assistant" for September, I am somewhat handicapped by the ability with which he places its favourable points before you; but, as there are one or two of his arguments with which I am not altogether in accord, I shall proceed to my personal ideas on the matter and refer to them later—just pausing to mention that it is only with the working of free lending libraries that I am dealing.

The subject has many aspects, which present wide scope for discussion: and it is desirable to take it, as far as possible,

from every standpoint likely to yield anything in the nature of evidence for or against the principle.

It must be evident to the most casual observer that there can be no comparison between the use of a hundred, or even a thousand, volumes of dictionaries, encyclopædias, and the usual class of works open to every comer in most reading rooms; and the liberty of free entry to the shelves generally. On the other hand, the kinds of books mentioned are mostly too large for issuing in the ordinary manner, also being in constant use; and as the cases containing same are situated immediately under the eyes of the staff and the numerous readers in the room, it becomes almost impossible for anyone to remove a volume for other than a legitimate purpose. While the other means the unrestricted entry to the shelves, where pilfering, if determined upon, cannot be detected without resorting to measures which would nullify the benefits derived from the privilege. I do not, however, wish you to infer that my opinion of the people who borrow from such places is quite so low as that, but wish to show that we must not rely on unfair comparisons, or we may delude ourselves with beliefs which might prove unfounded when too late to reconsider our judgment.

The question mainly resolves itself into two divisions—firstly, as regards the cost of altering present arrangements and replacing losses; secondly, the amount of benefit accruing to the library, either through increase of borrowers, or by the greater amount of profit received by the readers.

If, by its means, we can raise the standard of the public reading, increase the value of the staff's services, or attract a greater number of readers to the library, then I do not think that the mere matter of cost should be allowed to stand in the way of its adoption, as any increased expenditure could be partly met, if not covered, by the decrease in wages which a smaller staff, necessitated by open access, would entail. Conceding the point that it is the means to the end, and we arrive at the best of reasons for advancing the claims of open access to the consideration of all who are interested in the welfare and progress of our free libraries. Personally, I do not think that it would alter, in the slightest degree, the taste which at present exists for the lightest form of fiction. There is something too "child-like and bland" about the friends of open access when they picture the degenerate reader forsaking the literary fireworks of Marie Corelli, or the morbid mysteries of Fergus Hume, for the soothing influences of the minor poets and the solidity of German philosophy. They seem to me to base their opinions on the scantiest of founda-



tions, nor do they go sufficiently deep into the question to enable them successfully to cope with the evil complained of. While most lending libraries have as many borrowers as they can reasonably satisfy, and it is considered undesirable to swell the ranks of fiction-readers, librarians have a tough problem to settle in their endeavour to adjust the balance between the various forces which are in conflict with their ideals.

A well-known publisher lately lamented the fact that the public were not reading books to an extent sufficient to justify the numbers published. The reason he gave for this was the great flood of cheap newspapers and magazines which had recently sprung up like mushrooms. These, he asserted, catered for the masses in many directions hitherto outside the domain of journalism. And their contents were short stories and descriptive articles, more or less correct and highly-coloured, in order to meet the demands for something which is best defined by the term "spicy." This view is corroborated by the highest authority, and it is interesting to note that at the annual meeting of the Institute of Journalists the other day, the President said, in the course of his address: "The sensationalism that used to be regarded as the sole possession of their American brethren was becoming too common in the English press, which was consequently in danger of losing much of its dignity and prestige." It is quite notorious that even the highest class of fiction is suffering from the prevailing taste in literary matters, the authority quoted stating that nearly ninety per cent. of the fiction published was financially a failure. And it does not tend to alter matters when our leading novelists find it pays them better to turn out short stories for the newspapers than give their attention to longer pieces of writing of greater literary merit. That this should be the state of affairs is to be deplored, and affords ample scope for exercising the utmost tact and patience in attempting reform, for the law of supply and demand is unalterable.

If open access is going to prove the "open sesame" to a cultured and refined proletariat, then we may look for the millenium to follow. The fact is, few of the working-class have either the time or the inclination for a course of serious reading. They are therefore the more eager to spend the spare time at their disposal in the quest of recreation and amusement. Further, there are so many places of amusement open now, as compared with a decade or two ago, that their attractions are multiplied by reason of their cheapness. Studying such resorts and their patrons, we find ourselves

again brought into contact with the baneful influence which is so surely sapping away the strength and character of our press. Week by week we find the second-rate theatres filling their bills with dramas, in which impossible incidents, with lurid sentimental effects, are the climax to every act in the plays depicted.

To effect a change, we must first endeavour to alter the material surroundings of the classes concerned ere we may hope to see the library taking its proper position amongst the educational elements of the country. Thus, on every hand, we find the tendencies of public taste are in opposition to the idea of the library being the direct means of stopping or removing the evil. Daily we are reminded that Scott and other standard authors are out of favour—if not out of date, because, to express it in a popular phrase, “they are too dry.” In other words, they do not yield that amount of sensational reading which a work of Guy Boothby or Miss Braddon affords their patrons.

To my mind, the root of the objection to serious reading displayed on every hand is, to a great extent, to be found in the weakness of English elementary education. Not only is the teaching defective, but, from what I can gather from various sources, there is great room for improvement with regard to the selection of the subjects taught. History and geography, to go no further, receive but scant attention at the hands of many schoolmasters, who do not seem to insist upon the scholars acquiring a thorough knowledge of those subjects even in connection with their own country. Again, parents are allowed to send their children to school at an age when they should be in the nursery, the reason for this being that it leaves the mother free of them during school hours. In Scotland, where they are much ahead in matters of this kind, School Boards accept for tuition children over the age of six. The result in England is that children leave school at the age of thirteen or thereabouts, with but the slightest idea of what they have been taught; and so, when in competition with Germans or Scots, they invariably show up badly. You need not accept my word for it, but can verify what I state by the most casual research. It is a matter of notoriety what amazing answers are recorded from time to time by the examination papers handed to H.M. Inspectors, an amusing instance of which came under my notice the other day. A divinity student, who had evidently paid more attention to the cultivation of his muscles than of his brains, was asked at an examination—“Who were the Crusaders?” and with that delightful promptness which denotes certainty, he wrote in

reply: "The Crusaders were a team of footballers who won the Junior Rugby Cup two seasons ago!"

As it is said the child is the father to the man, it is quite evident that something more than open access is required to further the efforts of the schoolmaster. My idea is that all school boards should issue instructions to their teachers, asking them to point out to the scholars the most suitable works of all classes likely to aid them in their studies. The books would require to be graded according to the standard of the scholar, but it is well known that a good historical work of fiction is an excellent aid to the assimilation of history, provided the latter is first read. The librarian could prepare lists of the most suitable books, and otherwise help those seeking to perfect their studies in this way. And so in this manner the value and character of books might be early implanted in the minds of the rising generation; while it might be the cause of leading them from the temptations of the crude and sensational "penny dreadfuls" which most boys devour so greedily, to say nothing of the stupidly insipid novelettes affected by girls of all ages. I might say here that in the Scottish elementary schools both sexes are taught together, to the benefit of all concerned.

Passing from the educational phase of the question, for dwelling upon which I make no apology, we have to inquire how far the privilege of free entry to the shelves would compensate for the increased work falling upon the staff, apart from the attendant damage and losses (if any). After all, I hardly think confirmed book-lifters would find it worth the trouble to become borrowers for the sake of anything they might annex. The chief cause for anxiety lies rather in the continual misplacing of volumes likely to follow on the adoption of the system, and this would require the collating and arranging of the collection more frequently than is usual under the old style.

Unfortunately, we are to a great extent working upon hypotheses, rather than practical experience, as the few libraries working on these lines are mostly situated in the south, where there may be special reasons for the success which they claim for open access. Different towns have different methods in various matters, and I should like to see a dozen large libraries in as many large towns in the United Kingdom put on the experiment of working open access for say two years, before I could conclude that it would be suitable for general adoption.

Mr. Swann, in his remarks, mentioned previously, would qualify the term by the addition of the words "safe-guarded,"

but I cannot see how he can, without drastic restrictions, "safe-guard" open access. That is to say, if he refers to the closing of any portion of the presses against the public, then he is inconsistent with the essentials necessary to its success, which is, or should be, to grant any borrower the privilege of selecting his books directly from the shelf. Further on he mentions an objection which he noticed when visiting an open-access library in London, namely, "the blocking of the passages between the presses by borrowers of fiction"; this he terms, and I agree with him, a nuisance. Now if other portions of the library not devoted to fiction were crowded in similar fashion, would not that cause what he admits is a nuisance, and, being a nuisance, would it justify the trouble which it entails? Again, he says: "I am more than ever convinced that the citizens have an *absolute right* of access to the shelves"; and yet he would debar by far the largest portion of the said citizens from exercising "their absolute rights of access to their own property." This is a grave objection to opening any portion of shelves to the public; as, by admitting the right of one section of your borrowers to select their own volumes, I fail to see, in the face of such an admission, how you can deny the privilege to another and larger section with equal rights as citizens, but different tastes as readers.

For my part, I deny they have any other right; save that granted to them from time to time by the library bye-laws, and would urge that if open access must come do not base its claims upon fallacious rights, but rather upon its merits as a question of benefit. I should as soon advocate the right of every ratepayer to entertain his private friends in the Lord Mayor's parlour, which is in every sense equally his property, as allow him the free run of any public institution.

Were it merely a question of using open access as a means to attract a greater number of borrowers, while doubting its success, I think there could be no great objection save on the score of expense, the amount of which would vary according to the internal arrangements of the library making the change. There are, no doubt, many places which are quite fit to adapt themselves to the process without any structural alteration, but I fear that our neighbourhood is not prepared for such a radical alteration of present methods.

Coming to the intercourse betwixt librarian and borrower, we are led to believe that open access brings them into closer touch with one another, with resulting benefit to the latter. I think, however, it lies within the power of every librarian to improve and widen the sphere of usefulness of the institution

under his charge by various means, provided he has the ability and foresight to grasp the opportunities which from time to time present themselves.

It is to be observed in passing that most people of a studious turn of mind prefer to purchase for their own use works which are of more than passing interest, the many excellent cheap standard editions of the best literature rendering this easy of accomplishment by even those with slender purses. Then the short time allowed by most libraries for home-reading is quite insufficient for studying anything with much chance of profit; and is really too short in which to carefully peruse a first-class work of fiction. Reading, to be of lasting value, should be slowly and carefully done—the difference is much like that between sipping a glass of rare old wine and swallowing it at a draught. You lose that essence which constitutes the peculiar value of each, and it is for this reason that most people look upon the library as a place of recreation rather than as an educational factor.

To sum up, I have come to the conclusion that the time is not yet ripe for pushing the claims of open access, not merely for the reasons I have given, but also, and chiefly, because libraries are in a transitory stage, and will, I think, eventually be absorbed in the educational forces of the country. While this change is taking place, that which is best adapted to the locality will be the method most in use, until the question of a uniform system suitable for the use of all comes to the front.

I think, nevertheless, that it would be a good idea for the Committees of new libraries to fit their buildings for the open access method in order to experiment with it until a general verdict settled the question one way or the other.

With regard to non-lending libraries, the special requirement of each should dictate the course to be followed; like everything else concerned with the administration of such institutions, I am of opinion that at present no rule can be laid down for general observation.

If likely to prove of benefit anywhere, then I should imagine that open access is particularly adapted to the use of the students of a scholastic institutional library.

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### CRIPPLEGATE INSTITUTE.

CRIPPLEGATE AND WEST CITY FREE LIBRARIES.

The Cripplegate Foundation is constituted in pursuance of a scheme under the City of London Parochial Charities

Act, 1883, approved by Her Majesty in Council on the 23rd February, 1891.

The scheme, after providing certain sums for ecclesiastical and eleemosynary purposes, gives the residuary income of the Cripplegate Parochial Charities, now known as the Cripplegate Foundation, for the maintenance of the Institute, and a further sum of £40,000 out of the funds of the general parochial charities of the City towards the site and building.

The governing body is at the present time composed of sixteen members, viz., three ex-officio, ten elective, two appointed by the central governing body of the City Parochial Foundation, and one by the governing body of the St. Bride Foundation. The Institute is designed, with its branches, to provide library accommodation for the inhabitants and employees of the western half of the city, and so far as the Lending Library only is concerned, for those inhabiting, or employed in, the parish of St. Luke, Old Street, Middlesex.

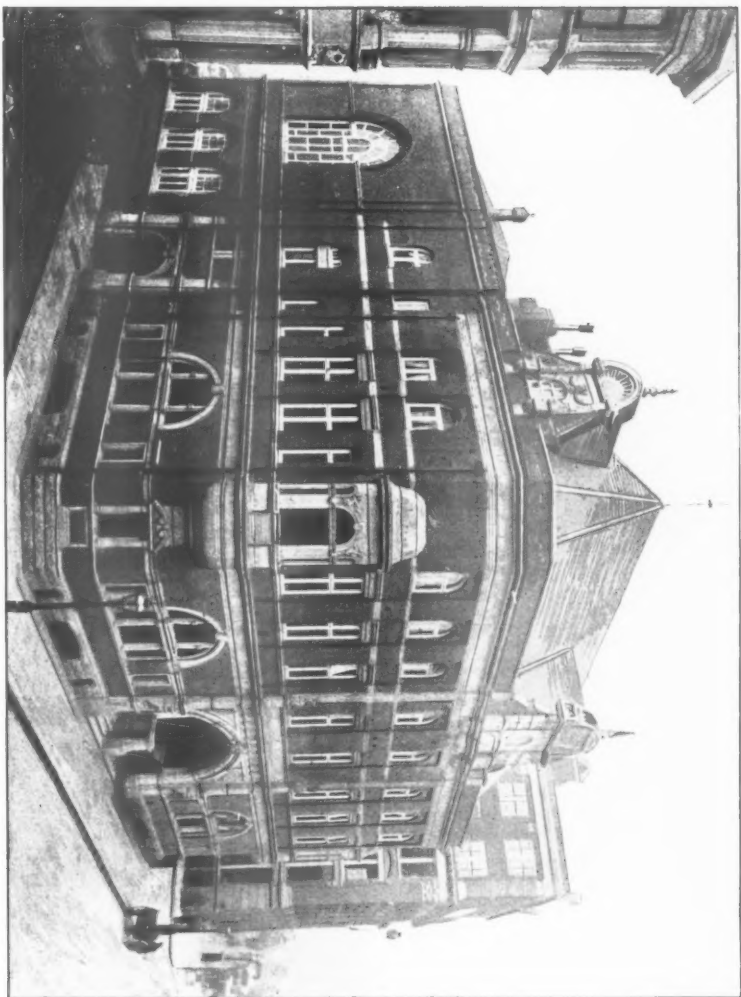
The foundation-stone was laid by H.R.H. the Duke of York, K.G., on the 3rd July, 1894, and the building was opened on the 4th November, 1896, by the Right Hon. the Lord Mayor, Sir Walter H. Wilkin, Mr. H. W. Capper having been appointed Institute Manager and Librarian a year earlier.

The Institute has been erected and furnished at the following cost—viz., purchase of site, £17,500; building, books, and furnishing, £32,500; total, £50,000. The architect was Mr. Sydney R. J. Smith, F.R.I.B.A.

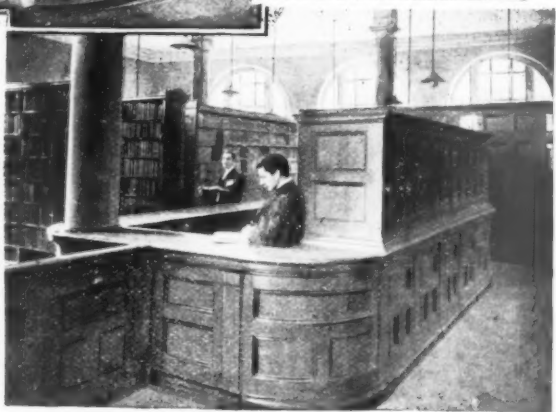
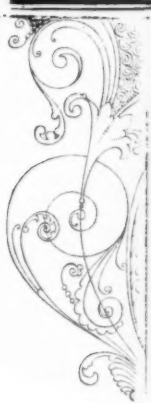
On the ground floor are placed the Lending and Reference Libraries, approached by a wide marble corridor. The news room is also on the ground floor, and is opened at 8 a.m., to enable those seeking employment to read the advertisements in the morning papers. Another feature recently introduced in the news room is a notice board, upon which are placed notices of vacant situations. This has proved a very great success, and has been the means of some hundreds obtaining employment. The sub-librarian's office, situated between the Lending and Reference Libraries and news room, commands a view of all these rooms, and so gives complete supervision.

The stock of books now numbers nearly 21,000, and is being continually augmented. The system upon which the Lending Department is worked is that known as "open access," which seems to give general satisfaction. The loss of books is about the same each year.

The total number of books issued since the opening, in 1896, is over 600,000; the number of borrowers on the



CRIPPLEGATE INSTITUTE.



MARBLE STAIRCASE AND LENDING LIBRARY.



register at 30th December, 1899, was 4,748, 1,426 of whom held special tickets available for non-fictional works.

The magazine room and Boys' Library are situated in the basement, the former accommodating over one hundred readers. The Boys' Library was opened on the 4th Nov., 1897, by Mr. Passmore Edwards, who gave £250 towards fitting it up, and stocking it with about one thousand volumes; consequently it is called the "J. Passmore Edwards Boys' Library."

The attendance in the news and magazine rooms has been over 1,600,000 in nearly four years, and is steadily increasing month by month.

During 1899 the experiment of opening the Lending Department at 8.30 a.m. was tried for the benefit of borrowers wishing to change their books before going to work. After some months' trial this arrangement was discontinued owing to the very small issue. The hours of opening now are 10 a.m. till 8 p.m., and on Saturdays, 10 a.m. till 3 p.m.

In the course of the next few weeks, the second branch library will be opened at 69, Queen Street, Cheapside, with a stock of three or four thousand of the most popular books, the main library being drawn upon for books not kept at the branch. Borrowers will therefore have the full advantage of being able to select from a stock of some 25,000 volumes. The first branch library under the Cripplegate Scheme was opened at the St. Bride Institute on the 20th November, 1895, by Sir Walter Besant, and contains some 8,000 volumes, giving a total stock of upwards of 33,000 volumes available to all the borrowers. The tickets issued at the branches are available at the main library, and *vice versa*.

Other departments of the Institute are the large concert hall, fitted with a stage for dramatic performances, and a special floor for dances; it is fully licensed by the London County Council and the Lord Chamberlain, for music and dancing, and stage plays. It may be of interest to state that the first stage play license ever granted by the Lord Chamberlain for the City of London was given to the Cripplegate Institute.

Classes in carpentry, photography, ambulance, dress-making, and cooking are held, and have always been very well supported.

The Institute is also the home of the Cripplegate Photographic Society, the hon. secretary being our friend Mr.

Ward, the Sub-Librarian. The Cripplegate Choral Society also has its headquarters in the building. The L.A.A. on many occasions has held meetings here, some of which can be counted as amongst the most successful, probably owing to the central situation and easy access from all parts. The governors have kindly placed a room at the disposal of the L.A.A. Committee once a month, in which to hold their meetings.

This Institution is carrying out some excellent work in the heart of the City in various ways, and has been a far greater success than was anticipated.

A.T.W.

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#### NOTES AND NEWS.

BARMOUTH.—A new Public Library has been erected at Barmouth, the site being presented by the Cambrian Railway Company. The library of Miss Francis Power Cobbe has been given to be deposited here.

Bow.—The Vestry have accepted a tender for the erection of a new Public Library in Roman Road at a cost of £5,460. The project for uniting with Bromley fell through.

COLNE.—The memorial stone of the new Public Library, assembly hall, and technical school was laid on Sept. 10th. The cost of the buildings is £10,000.

GREENOCK.—Mr. Carnegie has offered £5,000 towards the funds of the Public Library.

HORNSEY.—Mr. Henry Burt, Chairman of the Public Libraries Committee, has presented £125 for the purchase of books for the Stroud Green branch.

JOHANNESBURG.—The elevation and first floor plan of the Public Library appeared in the "Building News" of August 31st, together with a description. The building was opened in September, 1898, and cost £15,000. The basement, ground floor, and second floor are let out at present for reasons of economy. There is room for extension of the building.

LIMEHOUSE.—Mr. Passmore Edwards has just laid the foundation of the Public Library, and offered a contribution of £5,000 towards the funds.

WESTON-SUPER-MARE.—A new Public Library, Museum, and Picture Gallery have been opened by Sir Edward Fry, Mr. F. A. Wood offered to bequeath his reference library, valued at £4,000. £3,200 has been raised by rate and voluntary subscriptions.

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#### PUBLIC LECTURES ON NOVELS.

LAMBETH.—Ten lectures on "Novels and Novelists of the Nineteenth Century" will be given on Friday evenings at 8 p.m., commencing October 11th, by Professor W. Hall Griffin, at the Longfield Hall, Knatchbull Road, North Brixton, near the Minet Library, where tickets may be obtained, free, of Mr. C. J. Courtney, the librarian; and also at the Tate Central Library, Brixton Oval.

SHOREDITCH.—A course of ten lectures on "English Novelists" will be given on Thursday evenings, at 8 p.m., by Mr. R. Ashe King, M.A., at the Shoreditch Public Library, Pitfield Street, to commence October 12th. Tickets for the course may be obtained, free, at the Library.

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#### APPOINTMENTS AND CHANGES.

Several changes have taken place on the staff of the BRITISH MUSEUM since Dr. Garnett's retirement, as follows: MR. F. W. BARWICK, B.A., has become Superintendent of the Reading Room in place of Mr. W. R. WILSON, who goes into the department of Printed Books. MR. R. E. GRAVES, B.A., has just retired from his position of Assistant Keeper of Printed Books, whilst Mr. A. W. K. MILLER, M.A., assumes a similar post.

GABBATT, Mr. C. W., Assistant, Barrow-in-Furness, to be Sub-Librarian.

PHILIP, Mr. A. J., Assistant, Hampstead Central Library, to be Librarian-in-Charge, Belsize Branch.

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#### NEW MEMBERS.

SENIOR.—Mr. John Hosie (*Leyton*), Miss Roach (*Kimberley*), Mr. Hugh Smith (*Bishopsgate*), Messrs. G. W. Strother and J. W. Walker (*Leeds*).

JUNIOR.—Mr. R. J. King (*St. George-the-Martyr*), Messrs. E. May and F. Turner (*Kimberley*).

## NOTICES.

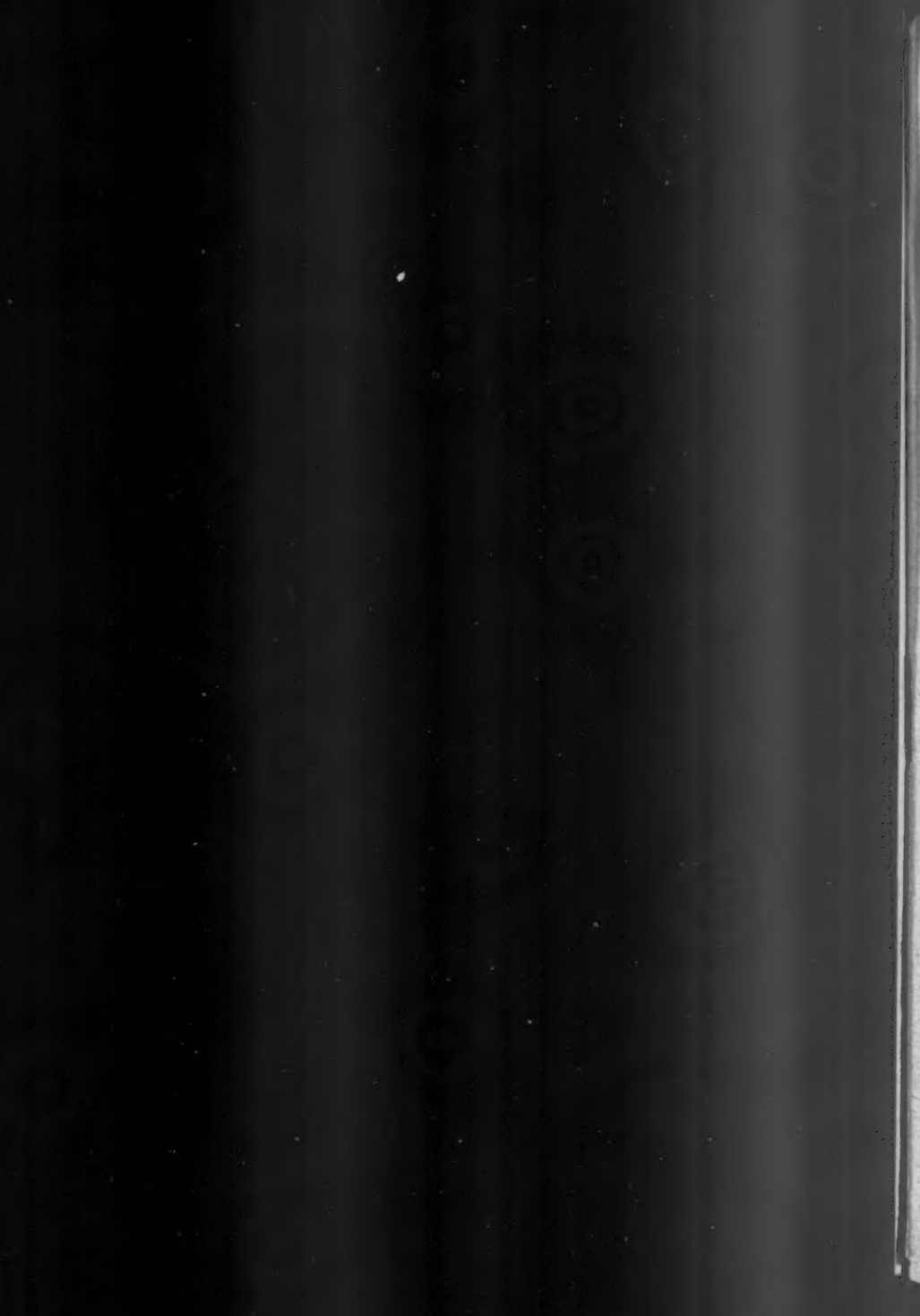
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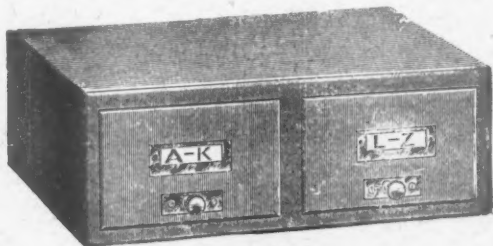
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